

Marshfield Conservation Commission

106th Meeting

7 December 2016

Members Attending: Allen Banbury, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Anne Miller, Bob Popp, and Annie Reed (Chair)

Nonmembers Attending: Rachel Rudi

Minutes: November minutes approved as presented

Member Check In:

- Annie will miss the January meeting; **Steve as vice chair will need to run the meeting.**

Membership:

- Still a vacancy
- Terms will end for Allen, Bob, and Steve. They will need to notify the Select Bd of their intent.

Mystery Tree in Marshfield:

- Annie brought in an elm specimen, but nobody was able to determine which species. To be continued.

Treasurers Report: No report presented

Natural Marshfield Report: presentations are 3rd Thursday of month

- Dec. 10th: Winter Tree Id at Stranahan. Meet at OSC at noon
- Jan. Dan Singleton, Washington Co Forester, will discuss invasive plants
- Feb. Betsy Bancroft from VT Center for Integrative Herbalism will discuss medicinal uses of invasive plants.

Stranahan update: Ed and Anne attended last meeting of SSC

- Concern about needing a larger parking area, especially with increased mt. bike use. To expand existing lot would need to drop some trees. Logger would drop into parking lot and volunteers would buck logs and cut into firewood for distribution to low income families.
- Town would chip the tops
- VLT determined that an archeological study is needed which significantly adds to costs so presently on hold
- General agreement to allow completion of existing mt. bike trail and then monitor the use before deciding on additional trails.
- Next meeting will be Jan 3rd

Municipal planning grant

- Town recently received the Village Center designation; this allows us to pursue a municipal planning grant.
- **Bob will follow** up and begin to draft an outline of a proposal for a natural areas inventory of the town. Will need to wait until this year's theme is announced in summer.
- Generally proposals are due by Oct 31st, but likely need PC and SB review prior to that. SB agreed to provide 50% of the match if we submitted one this year, but Village Center Designation approved too late for us to apply.
- There is also a possibility of a Watershed Grant ; deadline is Dec 1st, but inventory grants capped at \$3,500

Annual report: **Bob** will draft an outline prior to the Jan meeting for review. Topics would include

- Natural Marshfield Series
- FoW tree plantings
- Water quality sampling
- VYCC crew work at Martic Covered Bridge
- Member led Walks
- Inventory & mapping of invasives
- Meeting w/Road crew & state biologist re. beaver baffles
- Organized green up day & recruited Drew McNaughton
- Invasive control @ STF
- Exchange with Middlesex CC

Other business

- Discussion of Secret Life of Trees by Suzanne Symilod
- Janet Ansel speaking Dec 8th at Jaquith @ 7 on Climate Change and Tax Policy
- Jan 16th FoW at Jacquith will discuss plans for 2017. Collaborating with Winooski Headwaters Community Partnership consisting of CCs of 3 towns & Cabot Creamery.
- Winooski Watershed Management Plan is up for renewed in 2017. Karen Bates with VT DEC will be leading the effort
- F&W Dept Fisheries biologist will discuss Molly Falls hydro which is up for relicensing

Submitted By: Bob Popp

Submitted On: 10 Dec 2016

Approved On: _____